

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

It has been suggested that the gallantry displayed by certain Europeans in rescuing some Chinese, whose sampan was capsized in the gale last Friday evening should be suitably recognised. Though the wind was blowing at a velocity of 60 miles an hour and a very heavy sea was running in the harbour, these Europeans, seeing the accident, jumped into small boats, rowed a distance of 700 yards and rescued the Chinese, who would otherwise undoubtedly have been drowned. One of the rescuing party even dived into the water and attached a rope to the overturned boat, as a result of which two other members of the family were rescued in the nick of time. These Europeans played a part which not everyone would play in such circumstances. They are all very modest heroes, I am told, and look upon the incident as quite commonplace. Such gallantry, however, is not met with every day, and recognition in some form seems meet.

Empire Day in Hongkong was the occasion for a magnificent display of apathy. By the school children it is likely to be remembered as the time when two Sundays came in one week. They were taken to church, and then those who were Boy Scouts or Girl Guides were urged by H.E. the Governor to join the Blue Ribbon Army. In the European quarter of the city one could almost count upon one's fingers the Union Jacks that were flown. It was something of a shock to find that the national emblem was not floating above the Government offices in the vicinity of the Cathedral, and that the best which could be done at the hands of some new Law Courts was to hang out a collection of coolies' clothing to flutter in the breeze. One wonders what the educated Chinese, who understood the significance of the day, thought of these "outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace!" For our credit's sake let us do something better than this next year.

The younger men of the Colony who compose the Volunteer Corps may be justified in their assertion that they can show the Reserves points in drill and general military accomplishments, but it is to be doubted whether any of their number can equal the eagerness to learn of one member of the Reserves. So anxious is he to avoid the deep-voiced censure of the Sergeant-Major that he has provided himself with a collection of wooden pegs—proxies for soldiers—and in the evenings he drills these wooden-headed soldiers with a patience and regularity only possible in one who is extremely anxious to become proficient. The wooden pegs are set up in a military row and "dressed" to perfection, after which they are made to "form fours" and "on the right (or left) form platoon" with a precision worthy of well-drilled regulars. In view of this the keen old Reserve cannot help wondering why, after all this schooling, he invariably makes a sad mess of his section when it receives a command to execute a similar movement. When he is "called over the coals" he goes back to his wooden soldiers, and puts them through their paces again in the hope of being able to do the right thing at the right moment next time. He is to be commended if only for his good intentions.

I have heard it suggested that if King Solomon had lived in Hongkong these days he might have added a fifth to the things which he found too much for his comprehensive—and that would have been the principle governing some recent public appointments in the Colony. I confess that there was one appointment a little time back that gave rise to some not unnatural expressions of surprise, but, with this exception, I know of no justification for the suggestion. Some appointments rest entirely with the Colonial Office, it must be remembered, and, in such cases, seniority of service is generally the determining factor.

If a race-goer had had the good fortune to select each of the six winners at Saturday's gymkhana he could have turned a \$5 note into \$58.70—not, it must be admitted, a very magnificent return for a phenomenal run of luck. Nevertheless, those who claim that they "backed" five winners and one loser but still lost money must have put their money on in a very unbusiness-like manner. If all the winnings of five races are placed on the sixth and the selected pony finishes down the course, it is the fault of the "backer," and not of the *pari-mutuel*, that he loses money.

ROBERT RANDOM.

SWATOW NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

SWATOW, May 25th.
A GENERAL STATE OF DISORDER.

We hear that at Weichow there has been military trouble. The brigadier was compelled to depart, having been beaten by a company of rough soldiers from this district, who acted purely on selfish grounds. The brigadier, however, on going to Canton, was permitted to gather a sufficient number of men to return to Weichow and recapture it. It is reported that our own last brigadier, Mr. Ma, who had charge of the military forces at Swatow, and was compelled to leave for safety, is at present in Canton and is meditating returning to Swatow with a large force of men to drive out Moh Su Lin, his successful rival. These rumours, whether true or false, have their dire consequences. The shop-keepers do not know what to do—whether to brave it and, perhaps, lose their all, or shut up shop and depart to their houses in the country.

In the Kityang county there has been violent clan-fighting, or rather fighting between the white and red flag groups (for several clans are mixed up in these). In this quarrel it is computed that fifty thousand people are involved. I have not yet ascertained the losses on each side, but they are said to be on a more lavish scale than is usual in Chinese fighting. The Kityang magistrate has faced the task of trying to settle the dispute, and he is said to be progressing, but he is handicapped by his sparsity of soldiers.

Along the borders of the Fukien and Canton provinces from the sea inwards there are some thousands of Northern and Southern soldiers facing each other. The Swatow brigadier feels responsible for his section of the frontier, and he is sending more of his men than he can well spare. Some fighting has taken place at Luhapa, not far from Yungting. The Northerners are said to have been worsted. Both parties are afraid of one another. The aim of the Northerners is to save Fukien from the Cantonese and vice versa. I hear, however, that sections of Fukien are declaring for independence. The President is losing ground everyday in the South. If he finally wins it will be owing to rival factions fighting for selfish ends rather than for the State. One would almost like to see a strong executive formed by the Independent States, strong enough to maintain order in the several Provinces. There is such an executive in being, but very little is heard of it.

SUN YAT SEN INTERVIEWS.

Sun Yat Sen is again sending out feelers in the form of letters severely rebuking the President for not upholding his sacred vows. He is again trying to impress upon his sympathisers his three cardinal political principles—freedom of nationalities, government by the people, freedom of exploitation, etc. He holds that the President has violated all his promises and is rushing the nation into ruin. Does Sun Yat Sen expect to be invited back again? One wonders. There is no doubt that he has still some superficial popularity amongst the Chinese, especially in the South, but I do not think that his knowledge of statecraft during his short-lived Presidency left imperishable memories. He introduced into political life an element of romance, a manifest desire to help the people—to set the prisoners free—but he showed little capacity in holding the reins of government.

FALL OF TWO AEROLITES.

At the north side of Chiau An city several persons observed two aerolites fall, one close to a school-house and the other near a monastery. They fell down in red globes about the size of a rice bowl. On coming in contact with the earth they burst into little fragments.

SPORT.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE
"SPORTS NIGHT."

The following challenges are issued in connection with the "Sports Night" to be held by the Hongkong Special Police Reserve at the Victoria Theatre on Whit-Monday—
Pec. 391 Maher, Hongkong Police (Reserve) will box any amateur in the Colony at 133 lbs. Give or take 3 lbs.
"Young Ward," Royal Naval Yard Police, will box any amateur at 136 lbs. Give or take 2 lbs.

Staff Inspector Wildin, Hongkong Police (Reserve), Imports and Exports Office, will receive all challenge acceptances.

OBSTRUCTING PROGRESS OF LITIGATION.

PUISNE JUDGE'S PLAIN WARNING.

Mr. Justice Gompertz issued a plain warning to procrastinating litigants in the Summary Court yesterday. An application was made by Mr. Davidson (of Messrs Hastings & Hastings) that a claim for \$1,000, on a promissory note, which was fixed for hearing that morning, should be adjourned. He explained that he had only been instructed a very short time, and it was impossible for him to go on yet.

His lordship—I am getting tired of this sort of thing. A man goes to one solicitor and when the time for hearing is fixed he changes over to another and asks for an adjournment. I am leaving this Court for another Court on Wednesday, and I don't want to leave a string of cases for my successor in this Court.

Mr. Jenkin, who appeared for the defence, said the facts in this case were similar to those which came before his lordship a fortnight previously, when the judge decided that the chop on a promissory note was a forgery. He was instructed strenuously to oppose any such application as that of his friend. He was ready to proceed.

Mr. Davidson said he could only submit that it was usual to allow these indulgences, and any inconveniences could be covered by costs.

His lordship—I think the only thing I can do is to non-suit you in this case. It is a very great hardship to the other side and to other litigants for a man to jump from one member of the profession to another in this manner.

Mr. Jenkin—the solicitor for the plaintiff who was going to meet me here is now sitting in Court.

His lordship—He is not here out of curiosity. (Laughter.) If plaintiff is not ready to go on I shall non-suit him.

Mr. Davidson objected to the assumption that the facts in this case were similar to those in the previous case.

Mr. Jenkin asked his lordship to certify for costs.

Mr. Davidson opposed this, saying he considered it unreasonable when his side was non-suited.

His lordship—The Chief Justice and myself have discussed the matter of frequent adjournments, and we decided that something should be done to eliminate these procrastinations. I have been waiting for an opportunity such as this. I should like both the English and Chinese Press to publish this to let litigants know that they should make up their minds and not change from one member of the legal profession to another and ask for an adjournment.

His lordship non-suited plaintiff with costs to date. If a fresh action were commenced within one week defendant's solicitor would give an undertaking to refund the brief fee if the Court should so order.

THE LATE MAJOR DENT.
MEMORIAL AT WEIHAWEI.

The church at Weihaiwei was the scene of an impressive ceremony on May 14th (says the *N. C. Daily News*), when, in the presence of a large number of the community, a tablet was dedicated to the memory of Major Wilfred Harry Dent, Major Dent, who had the deserved reputation of a gallant officer, had, during his stay in China, endeared himself to a large circle of friends, who wished to perpetuate his memory in a place where he spent so many years as an officer in the now abandoned Chinese Regiment.

After the second lesson had been read at a special service held in the church on the mainland, his honour the Commissioner of Weihaiwei, Sir James Stewart Lockhart, K.C.M.G., unveiled the brass tablet and a special prayer was offered by the chaplain. In the course of a service appropriate to the occasion, the special prayers were said for all engaged in or affected by the war. The chaplain, preaching from Ecclesiastes xlv. 1, 8, and 9, said that all who, like Major Dent, had given to the war all that was in their power to give, had left behind them an example of devotion to duty for succeeding generations. Their work would leave its mark upon the world. The following is the inscription on the tablet:—

"IN MEMORY

OF
MAJOR WILFRED HARRY DENT.
Second in Command 10th Batt.
Alexandra Princess of Wales
Own Yorkshire Regiment
(Green Howards)

He fell while leading his Regiment
On Hill 70
After the Taking of Loos
September 27th, 1915.

During the last three months Germany has only been able to fill the gaps in the ranks all along the French front by utilizing recruits of the 1916 class. These recruits were first employed for active service in December last, and in some companies before Verdun they now form one-third and two-fifths of the strength.

THE PACIFIC MAIL CO.

SERVICE TO BE RESUMED NEXT MONTH.

With the present great shortage of tonnage on the Pacific run it will be good news to many to learn that the Pacific Mail Steamship Company intend resuming their service of steamers next month, following a long stoppage which was brought about as the result of the introduction of the La Follette Bill. The schedule has not yet arrived, but a start will be made next month with the *Venezuela*, which will leave Vancouver on or about June 17th. The *Venezuela* is a handsome vessel of 10,000 tons displacement, with a speed of 14 knots, and is fitted with all the latest conveniences and comforts for passengers. It will be possible to carry 111 first-class passengers, but the capacity of second class and steerage has not yet been decided upon. A feature of the accommodation will be two-berth cabins, while the cabins *de luxe* will be fitted with beds in place of bunks. In addition, there will be finely upholstered saloons, a handsome smoking room, barber's shop, hospital, and a dark room for photographers. The dining saloon is fitted with two large tables, together with small party tables to seat five persons each. The carrying capacity of the *Venezuela* is 6,000 tons dead-weight.

With the re-opening of the Pacific Mail service Mr. Morton, who was the agent for the Company in Hongkong for many years, will return to the Colony and resume his former position. Mr. Hunt will leave Hongkong to go to Kobe, where he will open an office for the Company.

PRESIDENT YUAN SHIH-KAI.

"LONG CHERISHED THE DESIRE TO RETIRE."

Evidently in reply to the telegram from Nanking, asking the Chief Executive at once to hand over the power of Government to the Ministry in order to enable the conference to base its decision on sound principles of constitutional government," says the *Peking Gazette*, the Chief Executive has despatched a telegram to Feng Kuo-chang, Chang Hsun, and Ni Shih Chung, expressing his willingness to retire, but asking that the conference should devise a method so that his retirement may safely be brought to pass without danger to anyone. Is this intended to shorten or to prolong the "agony" of the nation? We shall see. In the meantime, herewith a translation of the telegram:—

"When I lived in retirement in my own gardens, I had no intention to re-enter public life. Unfortunately the trouble of Hsin Hai arose and reluctantly I took on myself the burdens of the State together with others. This I did in defiance of difficulties and dangers. My spirit has been willing but my ability has proved insufficient. Thorns of trouble have sprung up everywhere. Ever since the uprising in Yunnan and Kweichow the people far and near have been greatly stirred. I confess that I lack the ability to see through misrepresentations as well as wisdom to rise to all occasions.

"My heart has been filled with remorse day and night and I have long cherished the desire to retire. Repeatedly have I consulted with important persons for a method by which again to set the house in order. They are all of the view that, as the step will vitally affect internal and external relations, the same should only be taken with extraordinary care, otherwise disaster will result to the nation. Recently Tang Chiyao, Liu Hsien-shan, Lu Yung-ting and Lung Chikwang have all demanded that I should retire, and Chen Yi has also advised me to take a rest. All these requests coincide with the intention which has long been in my heart. I, being a man of small virtue and little capability and deeply embarrassed by difficulties and hardship, earnestly hoped that my original intention may be fulfilled. I assure you that I have not the least desire to linger at my post nor am I unwilling to yield power and position.

"But it will be against my original intention of saving the country if I were to leave my post without devising a method for reorganisation and so leave the country to disaster. I should not be able to face the citizens if I were to do so. The most important question now is how to devise a measure to assure our future. As soon as this measure is devised, the other question can be solved at once. The said Shang Chiang-chun have invited the representatives of the provinces to discuss the question of the 'great policy' (sic). This I am exceedingly glad to know. The situation is delicate, and dangers internal and external are surrounding us from every side. It is therefore hoped that you will thoroughly discuss the method of future reorganisation and lay down a policy. You will from time to time consult the Government and agree upon a measure that all may share in the responsibility with a view that the country may be kept safe and whole instead of coming to immediate grief. With sincere expectations, I am, The Great President."

INTIMATIONS

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JUST TO HAND.

CASEMENT CLOTHS
WITH COLOURED BORDERS.

INEXPENSIVE. DAINTY. EFFECTIVE.

PLAIN CASEMENT CLOTHS

IN A VARIETY OF SHADES.

FULL RANGE OF BORDERS TO MATCH.

CRETONNES LINENS
AND TAFETAS.

ALL ABOVE MATERIALS ARE

SUN FAST AND TUB FAST.

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HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO &
WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.

Single Fare by Night Steamer	15.00
Return " " (available also for return by day steamer)	11.00
Single Fare by Day Steamer	8.00
Return " " " " " "	9.00

HONGKONG TO CANTON. | CANTON TO HONGKONG.

TUESDAY, 30th MAY, 1916.	
8 a.m. HONAM.	8 a.m. HUNGHAN.
10 p.m. FATSHAN.	5 p.m. KINSHAN.
WEDNESDAY, 31st MAY, 1916.	
6 a.m. HUNGHAN.	8 a.m. HONAM.
10 p.m. KINSHAN.	5 p.m. FATSHAN.

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. TAISHAN, Tons 2,000. | S.S. SUY TAI, Tons 1,651.
HONGKONG TO MACAO.
Week days at 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf, Mondays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.
MACAO TO HONGKONG
Week days at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sundays at 7.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.

SUNDAY, 3rd JUNE, 1916.
The Company's New Steamship
"TAISHAN"

Will depart from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf at 9 a.m., and return from Macao at 2 p.m.
S.S.—The Company will also run a Steamer from Macao on Sunday at 7.30 a.m. and from Hongkong at 1 p.m., from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

FARES AS USUAL.

MACAO-CANTON LINE.

S.S. SUY TAI.
Departure from Macao to Canton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 9 a.m.
Departure from Canton to Macao on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 4.30 p.m.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD., AND THE INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

CANTON-WUCHOW LINE.

S.S. HAINAN, 588 tons, and S.S. NANNING, 569 tons.
One of the above Steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at about 9 a.m., and the other leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same days at 8.30 a.m. Round trips take about 4 days. Passengers can return to Hongkong or vice versa by the Company's direct Steamers LITANY and SARUZ. These vessels have superior Cabin accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity. Electric Fan in each Cabin. Booking Office open daily (Sundays excepted) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the
HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT Co., Ltd.,
Hotel Mansions (First Floor) opposite the Bank of China.

VISITORS TO CANTON
Should PurchaseFROM HONGKONG TO CANTON
BY THE PEARL RIVER.

Captain C. V. LLOYD.
With Illustrations, Maps and Plans.

PRICE \$1.75
On Sale at:—
Messrs. KELLY & WALES, Ltd.
Messrs. BREWER & Co.
Canton: Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co.

ON SALE.

HONGKONG HANBARD REPORTS
MEETINGS of the
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for
1916-1915.

REVISED BY THE MEMBERS.
PRICE \$1.00
DAILY PRESS OFFICE
Hongkong, 24th February, 1916.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

BY direction of the Inspector-General of Customs, I have this Day ASSUMED CHARGE of the Office of CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS for Kowloon and District.

A. H. HARRIS,
Commissioner of Chinese Customs,
Kowloon and District.

York Buildings,
Hongkong, 29th May, 1916. [744]

WANTED.

BRITISH Firm in Saigon requires capable CHINESE CLERK.

Apply—Care of "Daily Press" Office,
Hongkong, 30th May, 1916. [745]

WANTED.

BRITISHER Seeks Employment, temporary or otherwise. Many years' experience in the East. Excellent references and testimonials. No objection to outposts.

Apply—Care of "Daily Press" Office,
Hongkong, 30th May, 1916. [746]

WANTED.

WELL-Established Import and Export Firm requires for July 1st, 1916, the Services of an English-Speaking COMPRADORE, with Staff, \$50,000 Security. Must be active, well-connected, able and willing to push the business.

Address with particulars to—
"COMPRADORE"
Care of "Daily Press" Office,
Hongkong, 30th May, 1916. [747]

AMERICAN ASIATIC S.S. CO.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM NEW YORK.

THE Steamship

"LOWTHER CASTLE,"
Captain H. W. Lowther, having arrived from the above Port, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at the risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on SATURDAY, 3rd June, at 10 A.M. All Claims must be presented within FIFTEEN DAYS of the Steamship's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered at or the 5th June will be subject to rent.

Consignees of Cargo are hereby notified that they must produce an Import Permit signed by the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, Hongkong, before Bills of Lading can be countersigned.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by SHEWAN, TOMES & Co., General Agents.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1916. [748]

"SHIRE" LINE OF STEAMERS, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM MIDDLESBRO, LONDON, GENOA, NAPLES, COLUMBO AND STRAITS.

THE Steamship

"CARMARTHENSIRE,"
having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co., Kowloon, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

Goods not cleared by the 5th June at 5 P.M. will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on 5th June at 9.30 A.M. Claims against the Steamship must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by J. A. L. L. MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents.

Hongkong, 29th May, 1916. [749]

WANTED.

FOR Singapore, CHINESE CLERK with a good knowledge of Chinese Characters; thorough knowledge of English essential; would be required mainly for translation work.

Apply—Care of "A. B. C." Office,
Hongkong, 29th May, 1916. [751]

MEDICAL OFFICER.

THE post of MEDICAL OFFICER in the Port of CHINKIANG, China, is falling vacant at the end of September next. Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, BRITISH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Chinkiang.

NOTICE.

WE HAVE This Day authorised Mr. ARCHIBALD ORR LANG to Sign the name of our Firm in Hongkong and China.

We have This Day authorised Mr. GEORGE MASON LAKIN to Sign the name of our Firm by Procuration in Hongkong and China.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Hongkong, 29th May, 1916. [753]

NOTICE.

THE Underigned having acquired the interest in the "Yon Riegen" Patent Firebridge Bar, it will henceforth be known as the "ECLIPSE" PATENT FIREBRIDGE BAR.

Full particulars and prices for installations from—
THE UNITED ASBESTOS ORIENTAL AGENCY, LTD.,
2, Queen's Buildings,
Hongkong, 17th March, 1916. [749]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.

FOUR ROOMS and Servants' Quarters at 17, THE PEAK. Immediate possession. Apply on the premises or write to—
Care of "Daily Press" Office,
[740]

TO LET—FURNISHED.

NO. 1, THE PEAK. SIX ROOMS and Tennis Court. Within 10 minutes of Tram.
Apply—
H. A. LAMBERT,
[750]

TO LET.

OFFICES on 1st Floor, No. 3, Queen's Road Central (In Ice House Street).
Apply to—
WILKINSON & GRIST,
[691]

TO LET.

OFFICES on 1st Floor, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, at present in the occupation of The China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
Apply to—
CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LTD.,
[692]

TO LET.

OFFICES in Prince's Building.
Apply to—
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
Liquidators,
REUTER, BROCKELMANN & Co.,
[572]

TO LET.

RAVENSHILL EAST, Park Road, containing 6 Rooms, 3 Bath Rooms, Servants' Quarters, &c. Vacant 1st November.
Apply—
DEACON, LOCKER, DEACON & HARBSTON,
[690]

TO LET.

A SMALL GODOWN in PRINCE'S BUILDING.
For particulars etc., apply—
THE HONGKONG CENTRAL ESTATE, LTD.,
[685]

TO LET.

OFFICES, 2nd Floor, St. George's Buildings.
Apply to—
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
[518]

TO LET.

NO. 4, DES VIGUE ROAD CENTRAL, First Floor.
THE COMMODIOUS DWELLING HOUSE, with Office, Servants' Quarters, etc., No. 14, STAMMEN, CANTON, from 1st June, at present in the occupation of the Imperial Russian Consulate.
Apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,
[415]

TO LET.

A HOUSE in Knutsford Terrace, Kowloon.
Apply—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd.,
[37]

TO LET.

TWO ROOMED-FLATS in Nathan Road, Kowloon.
THREE ROOMED-FLATS in Humphrey's Buildings, Kowloon.
FOUR ROOMED-FLATS in May Road with every modern convenience, including English Bath and Kitchen System. A few flats specially designed to accommodate three bachelors at reasonable rentals. Immediate possession.

FOUR ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings,
[692]

TO LET.

OFFICES at 1, Connaught Road.
HOUSE in CLIFTON GARDENS, Conduit Road.
No. 1, HILLSIDE, THE PEAK.
GODOWNS, at Wanchai.
Nos. 1 and 2, WEST END TERRACE, CANTON.
Apply—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd.,
[32]

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINE,
G. FRIEN,
HILF BERGDAHL & CO.,
F. LORRIA,
(IN LIQUIDATION).

CREDITORS are required to send in their Claims against the above to the Under- signed, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, on or before WEDNESDAY, the 31st May, 1916.
Date: 12th May, 1916.
J. HENNESSY SETH, A.S.A.,
Liquidator.
[698]

INTIMATION

JUST ARRIVED.

A FRESH CONSIGNMENT

GIN

SIR ROBERT

BURNETT & CO.'S

OLD TOM

AND

DRY.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

HONGKONG AND CHINA.



ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

TELEPHONE 616.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VIGUE ROAD, C.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press

HONGKONG, 30th MAY, 1916

GT. BRITAIN'S AIR SERVICE.

A few days ago REUTER sent us a summary of the reply of the Government of Great Britain to the critics of their air service. There has evidently been a great deal of confusion of thought about the whole matter. Early in February we received information from private sources in London that our air service was second to none. Our informant was a patriotic and sensible man who would not dream of supplying information to his greatest friend if it were likely to be of any use to the enemy. We considered it general knowledge among the experts, and it was confirmed by other evidence which seemed satisfactory to us. We therefore expressed the opinion that our air-craft service was, at that time, superior to that of the Germans. In a few days came the stories about the new Fokker machines. Statements were made calculated to lead most of us out in China to think that the Germans had gained the all-important supremacy of the air. We did not, however, accept, at their face value, these stories. Time has shown that the deductions made by various people concerning the Fokkers were false. We must believe the definite statements of Mr. TENNANT and Mr. MASTERMAN, made a few days ago in the House of Commons, that the British aeroplanes and their riders are second to none. We have beaten our enemies in what will be known as the "fourth arm" of the military organisation. The simple fact is that the Germans have made a very great mistake. They placed an almost childish faith in dirigibles. They have been so anxious to terrorise civilians that they have overlooked the primary object of any military organisation, which is the destruction of the enemy's fighting organisation. Our deepest sympathies go out to the relatives of the victims of Zeppelin raids; on the other hand, there can be no doubt that if the Germans had devoted their energy

and resources to the development of aeroplanes, and left the dirigibles alone, they would have profited more. That their own experts recognise this is known; but their peculiar methods of deceiving their own people prevent them from discontinuing the use of Zeppelins as a weapon of offence against non-combatants. There seems to be more joy in Berlin over one baby killed by a Zeppelin than over a hundred soldiers who are rendered ineffective for fighting purposes, even though chlorine gas has been used for the destruction of the men. Therefore, we may be sure that the rulers of Germany will continue to extol Count ZEPPELIN for purely political purposes. That will not deceive the Allies. They know quite well that it pays to increase the production of aeroplanes rather than dirigibles.

It is difficult to draw lasting conclusions from the information available about the use of aeroplanes in this war. The machines in use until six months ago were without armour or any similar defence. The number of machines is numerically very weak as compared with other branches of the military service. There are certainly two thousand bayonets available in the British army for one aeroplane. In a modern army there are about six horses to every hundred infantrymen. At the outbreak of war it was generally supposed that the Germans had not more than five hundred aeroplanes at the front. We heard a great deal of their value for locating guns and directing gun-fire. Had the German cavalry been limited to five hundred they would have been negligible. It is reasonable to assume that the number of British machines in use has increased greatly. At the same time it is as well to remember that the average life of an aeroplane in warfare is only about three or four months. Consequently, the whole of Britain's air-craft must be renewed three or four times a year. Against that we have the knowledge that the extension of aeroplane factories in Great Britain has been no less remarkable than the growth of the munition works. Therefore, despite the energy absorbed in replacing the machines which are worn out, we may conclude that the numerical strength steadily increases.

The great advantage which the aeroplane possesses is its extraordinary mobility. As a news-gatherer and transmitter it is obviously superior to cavalry. On the other hand, there are conditions which render the aeroplane almost inoperative. If the enemy is advancing through wooded country it must be extremely difficult, if not impossible to see from an aeroplane what he is doing. For these, and other reasons, the military experts seem to be agreed that cavalry will remain an important arm of the service, despite the enormous possibilities of development in the flying machine. It is very difficult to forecast flying was seriously doubted two or three decades ago. It became a reality through the engine which utilises petrol as a form of motive power. At present aeroplanes are unable to carry enough petrol for a reasonably long flight and to mount a gun capable of shell-fire. There is, however, no real reason why, at some future date, both guns and armour should not be mounted. It depends entirely upon the relationship between the power developed and the weight of the fuel necessary to develop the power. If we were still dependent upon solid fuel, such as coal, we should not have aeroplanes.

The war, then, has proved to us that, despite mechanical progress, the horse is still a good friend to man in the day of battle. It has proved, also, that despite the long-range artillery and the scientific methods of range-finding, the personal factor still counts. Valour is rewarded and admired just as much by us as by our forefathers. We recognise, also, something which was unknown centuries ago. It is the supreme importance of foresight and scientific preparations. Gallipoli and Mesopotamia have demonstrated that bravery can carry troops through curtains of fire, but that only valour and foresight combined can secure victory. We await, with anxiety, but with no doubt of the result, the final offensive against our enemies. Then, horses and machines will play their part. When the curtain is finally lifted and the great day of Tannenberg, when Britain and her Allies have at last secured liberty for mankind, when the fight for Right has proved the senselessness of Prussian methods, then shall we be able to evaluate more definitely the part played by the various arms of the fighting services. For the present we are content to know that, so far as individual bravery is concerned, the men of all branches of H.M.'s Forces seem ever ready to display it whenever the opportunity presents itself.

A mail for Europe via Siberia closes to-morrow at 10.30 a.m.

The P. & O. Homeward mail str. *Mooltan*, with the Hongkong mails of the 22nd April last, arrived at Marseilles on Thursday, the 25th instant.

Mr. G. P. Lammert informs us that the recently advertised sales by auction of ship's gear and furniture from the T.K.K. *Chiyo Maru* have been postponed until further notice.

Only two wreaths adorned the statue of the late Lord Beaconsfield—in Parliament Square this year—one from the Constitutional Club, and the other from Mr. R. E. Bellios, who, for years, has sent such a token on Primrose Day.

Congratulations to Mr. George Grimble, who celebrates to-day his silver wedding. We see from our files that he was married to Miss Edith Nankville at the British Consulate, Kobe, by Consul General J. J. Ensle, and afterwards at the United Protestant Church, by the Rev. Walter Weston, M.A.

At the Red Cross Sale at Christie's last month was sold the Kaga ware dish, 23in. diameter, the gift of Queen Alexandra, for which a purchaser who wishes to remain anonymous paid £52 10s. King Mancel's panel of Chinese embroidery, Kien Lung, 11ft. by 8ft. 6in., was also bought for £110 5s. by an anonymous bidder, who immediately had it put up again, when it realised the same sum, thus bringing £220 10s. in all. Among the Japanese objects of art were a pair of bowls and covers of black and gold lacquer, presented by Lady Emily Digby, which made £105 (Mrs. Darrell).

Professor Kenelm Digby, of the Hongkong University, prosecuted at the Magistrate yesterday a Chinese richa coolie for refusing hire. He stated that he had found difficulty sometimes in getting the services of a coolie. Defendant alleged that he had a very bad foot, and although willing to take a fare who would be content to go slowly, he could not take a European who desired him to travel fast. Professor Digby was requested by the Magistrate to examine the man's leg, and he pronounced that although it was somewhat swollen there was nothing much the matter with it. A fine of \$5 was imposed.

The Chinese driver of motor-car No. 74, belonging to Mr. Henry Humphreys, was summoned before Mr. J. R. Wood at the instance of the Special Police Reserve yesterday for failing to have the number-plate properly illuminated. Evidence was given by Sgt. Kew and Trooper Arnold of the Police Reserve Mounted Patrol, as to the nature of the offence. Mr. W. E. L. Shenton (for the defence) said the lamp concerned had been used by Mr. Humphreys in England. On the night in question the car had been driven all through Hongkong before it was stopped by the Police Reserve. A fine of \$10 was imposed.

The following letter of thanks has been received by Mr. M. S. Northcote, Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club, which recently gave very successful performances of "The Angel in the House" on behalf of the Blue Cross Fund to Help Horses in War Time:—
"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge your letter and the very generous contribution of £120 to our Blue Cross Fund, being the proceeds of a performance given by the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club, for which I enclose official receipt. I am requested by the President, Lady Smith-Dorrien, and the Committee of the Fund to ask you to convey to the members of your Club their very sincere and grateful thanks for this valuable help towards our work.—ARTHUR J. COKE, Secretary."

The *Straits Times*, which essayed to raise two "fighter" aeroplanes in Singapore for the use of the British Army and set a generous example by subscribing \$11,000 odd itself, has succeeded far beyond its expectations. It announces that the funds have been raised for the purchase of six "fighters" costing \$19,200 each, and that an attempt is being made to provide a seventh to be named the "Anzac." With characteristic outspokenness our contemporary says:—"We do not venture to hope that we can complete the 'Anzac' but the public have been splendidly generous and we do not hesitate to leave it in their hands. There are still a good many wealthy men who have done nothing, and if a few of them repent their niggardliness at the eleventh hour, even the 'Anzac' might easily show a balance to the good."

Mr. A. H. Harris, who was formerly Commissioner of Chinese Opium for Kowloon and District, has again assumed charge of the office.

Mr. G. Barjona, the Portuguese Consul-General at Shanghai, whose recent action in sentencing various members of the Portuguese community to imprisonment has been the subject of representations to Lisbon, is leaving Shanghai and his duties are being taken over by Mr. de Nascimento, Secretary of the Portuguese legation at Peking.

The weekly health return of infectious diseases show that 13 cases of small-pox were notified in Hongkong during the week. All the patients were Chinese, and in 10 cases death resulted. Only two cases (Chinese) of bubonic plague occurred, both of which were fatal. Since January this year 19 cases altogether have been recorded. The return also reports five cases of enteric fever (three British and the rest Chinese).

Much amusement was caused in the Magistracy yesterday by the remark of a Chinese who was charged with the larceny of a bailee of two fowl crates. It was proved that the defendant was caught in the act of selling the crates to a bon-woman for 15 cents, by a detective, and when complainant went into the box to affirm that the boxes were his defendant observed:—"What's he making all the fuss about? I've carried fowls in these crates for him for years, and they're worth nothing anyhow!" He was sent to prison for a month.

Under orders of the local Government, says a Rangoon telegram dated April 15th to the *Pioneer*, there were deported this evening by steamer leaving for the Straits and Hongkong five Chinese. One was from Rangoon and is said to be of a violent disposition and is being sent to Amoy. The other four deportees are Straits' coolies against whom it was reported they were of violent disposition and were apparently determined to interfere with the output of wolfram in Tavoy district. They were deported to Hongkong. The police of Penang, Singapore, Amoy and Hongkong have been notified of the deportations.

CORRESPONDENCE.
THE BANDAGE-MAKING CLASS.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.")

Sir,—I shall be much obliged if you will kindly insert in your paper the copy of the following letter:—

27, General Hospital, Cairo.
DEAR MADAM,—I have received 2 cases of bandages, swabs, and many tail bandages, etc., through Colonel (Lord) Hall, who kindly sent us them as we were starting a new hospital of 1,050 beds in Cairo.

We are most grateful to your bandage-making class for their splendid contribution. They are all most beautifully made, and everything marks the greatest care has been taken in the selection of materials and patterns. They are bound to prove most useful, and we shall be extremely grateful for another contribution of your most excellent work. With many thanks, sincerely yours,

D. MILLICENT MICHELL (Matron).

I am extremely glad to have received this letter just now, as one or two thoughtless people have seen fit to make rash statements, such as "how useless all our work is, waste of time, etc., as all our things were burnt or thrown on the rubbish heap as unfit for use in hospitals." Little thinking how many workers they influence and prevent from coming to the classes to help by giving vent to their views of ignorance.

This is the fourth letter of thanks I have received from Egypt for work done by our department. By this mail we have sent off from the Bandage-making Department:—

6,120 Rolled bandages (various widths).
204 Knitted eye-bandages.
66 Flannel many-tail bandages.
66 Cotton many-tail bandages.
114 Stump many-tail bandages.
49 Pairs knitted surgical stockings.
24 Skull caps.
66 Flannel abdominal belts.
128 Butter-muslin shirts, which have gone straight to the trenches.
2,057 Swabs.

This is the work of one month, and I take this opportunity of thanking every one who has helped to send such a splendid contribution. We still want more workers, and anyone who will come forward and join either of the three branches of the Bandage-making Department will be heartily welcomed.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

EDITH PRELIPS

THE WAR.

LULL IN VERDUN BATTLE.

GERMANY'S FOOD DIFFICULTIES.

ENEMY CROSS GREEK FRONTIER.

PREPARING FOR ALLIED OFFENSIVE.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

VERDUN QUIETER.

ENEMY ATTEMPT AT ALTKIRCH PREVENTED.

PARIS, May 29th.

5.16 p.m.

To-day's *communiqué* says there were mainly minor operations. Lively bombardments occurred east of Mort Homme, and there was intermittent artillery firing in Woivre.

Enemy attempts to attack north-west of Altkirch were prevented by French fire.

VIOLENT BOMBARDMENT OF MORT HOMME.

PARIS, May 29th.

1.55 a.m.

The evening *communiqué* says:—French artillery blew up an ammunition depot in the Ville-sur-Tourbe region. There was a violent bombardment of the entire Mort Homme region and west of Thiaumont. No infantry action occurred on the right of the Meuse.

There was intermittent artillery firing on the remainder of the front.

GERMANS ATTEMPT TO RAID BRITISH TRENCHES.

EFFORT COMPLETELY FAILS.

LONDON, May 29th.

General Sir Douglas Haig, in a *communiqué*, reports:—Last night, after a short but heavy bombardment, the enemy attempted to raid our trenches east of Calonne. The attempt failed, not one of the enemy entering our trenches.

An enemy patrol was put to flight near Hebuterne, and one of the enemy was killed.

In the early morning the enemy heavily shelled the area to the south-west of Zillebeke with gas shells, and also shelled our communication trenches.

The enemy blew up mines south-east of Neuville St. Vaast, south of Loos, and east of Souchez. There was some damage to our trenches, but no casualties were caused.

There has been more than the usual hostile artillery fire at Fricourt, Mametz, Hohenzollern Redoubt, and St. Eloi. We shelled trenches west of Beaurains, opposite Hannet Camps, with good effect.

The enemy's trench mortars were active about Anthuille, Herre, and the Quarries.

Our aeroplanes accomplished much useful work. Enemy aeroplanes were inactive.

RUSSIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMAN OFFENSIVE NEAR DVINSK.

PETROGRAD, May 29th.

A *communiqué* says that on the Western Front, south of Lake Drisvinty (near Dvinsk) a German offensive, preceded by violent artillery preparation, was repulsed.

In the Caucasus an offensive by strong Turkish forces on the Revandez and Dergala front was repulsed.

NAVAL ACTIVITIES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FRENCH LINER CHASED BY SUBMARINE

MARSEILLES, May 29th.

The French liner *Moulouy* has arrived here. The vessel was chased for fifty minutes by a submarine in the Mediterranean, but managed to escape by travelling at full speed and zig-zagging.

THE BALKANS.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BULGARIANS OCCUPY GREEK FORT.

THE ENEMY'S EXPLANATION.

SALONIKA, May 28th.

A force of 25,000 Bulgarians crossed the frontier at Rupel Pass and occupied a Greek fort at the entrance to the Struma Gorge, and also the station and bridge of Demir Hissar. The Greeks withdrew without resisting, except one Company, which fired 24 shots, and then retired, upon an order from Athens.

German and Bulgarian officers on Thursday waited on the Greek commander at Rupel and intimated that in order to assure the Bulgarian left wing against an attack by the Allies they proposed to occupy the fort "in accordance with the principles of neutrality as interpreted by others." They demanded the withdrawal of the Greeks within 24 hours. The commander telegraphed for orders, after which a Protocol was signed in which the Germans and Bulgarians pledged themselves to restore the fort as soon as the reason for its occupation disappeared.

The Germans and Bulgarians are also showing great activity at Xanthi, otherwise Eskidze, to the north-east of Kavala, where they are collecting pontoons, etc., with a view to crossing the Mesta.

ITALIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

DESPERATE AUSTRIAN ATTACKS.

GOOD WORK BY ALPINI.

Rome, May 28th.

A *communiqué* states that desperate Austrian attacks at Lagarina, Rio Caveras and Buole failed. Elsewhere there have been only artillery actions. The Italians dispersed many enemy concentrations and marching columns. The enemy have continued strong pressure in the Assingo, Asa and Goltara valleys. The Alpi on the 26th inst., in the Strenzo Basin, captured 157 prisoners, 300 rifles and a section of machine-guns, which were immediately turned on the enemy. There has been successful mine fighting at Monte San Michele, where a stretch of enemy trench was wrecked, the occupants being wiped out by machine-guns.

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LABOUR AND HOLIDAYS.

WORK NOW; PLAY AFTERWARDS.

LONDON, May 29th.

There has been an instant and remarkable response to Mr. Lloyd George's Whitsuntide appeal for no holidays for munition workers. Labour leaders are heartily supporting the non-stoppage of work, and a movement is afoot for a general ignoring of Whitsuntide holidays. The universal feeling is "Work now and play afterwards."

NEW LIBERAL PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED.

LONDON, May 29th.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that 255,000 has been subscribed, and much more is promised to start a new Liberal morning paper associated, it is supposed, with the war views of Mr. Lloyd George.

The plant has been secured, and only the difficulty of the paper supply is delaying the start.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANY'S FOOD CRISIS. YEAR OF SCARCITY LOOMING AHEAD.

AMSTERDAM, May 29th.

Significant admissions were made in the Reichstag concerning the food situation. The Government representative emphasised that a sufficient quantity of potatoes was available, but there was no excess. The number of cattle had declined by 21 per cent. since the 1st December, 1915, and pigs had likewise declined. The greatest possible restriction on consumption would shortly be necessary.

A National Liberal Deputy pointed out that Germany's stock had decreased by 3,000,000 head in year. A year of scarcity was looming ahead. He urged the mass-feeding of the population.

INTER-STATE COMPLICATIONS.

LONDON, May 28th.

Evidence continues to accumulate of the German Government's great difficulties in connection with the food question, especially owing to the inter-State complications.

The Food Minister's decision overriding the local State food export prohibitions is deeply resented. Indeed several Governments, including the Bavarian Government, have refused to be bound by the decision.

The Chancellor has therefore gone to Munich to confer with the King and the Government, and he subsequently will go to Stuttgart and Karlsruhe.

It is expected that the Food Minister will be compelled to revise the whole scheme of organisation.

Meanwhile the appointment of a Socialist, Dr. August Mueller, as a member of the Food Bureau, is significant of the Government's desire to placate the masses. He is the first of the Socialists to occupy an important post in the German Government.

TOWNSHEND'S APPRECIATION.

DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY TURKS' CHIVALRY.

LONDON, May 29th.

Major-General Townshend, interviewed by the representative of a Constantinople paper, said he was deeply impressed by the chivalry of Halil Pasha. "All our wants were attended to, beyond our expectation," he declared.

LIVELINESS EXPECTED IN COMMONS.

LONDON, May 29th.

The business before the House of Commons this week will include the Consolidated Fund Bill. A keen debate is awaited concerning Lord Kitchener's salary. Mr. Churchill, Mr. Ellis Griffith, and Sir Arthur Markham, will, it is understood, speak. In view of the expected attack, Mr. Asquith himself will reply.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND PEACE.

AN INTERESTING REMARK.

WASHINGTON, May 29th.

President Wilson, in an interesting passage in his speech to the "League to Enforce Peace," declared that it was probable that if it had been foreseen what would happen, what alliances would be formed, and what forces would be arrayed, those who brought on the great contest would gladly have substituted a conference for force. Had the United States been given an opportunity of apprising belligerents of the attitude which it would have been her duty to take, and of the policies and practices against which she would feel bound to use all her moral, economic, and, in certain circumstances, even physical strength her contribution to counsel which might have averted the struggle, would have been considered worth weighing and regarding.

THE IRISH PROBLEM.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE MAY GO TO IRELAND.

LONDON, May 29th.

Mr. Lloyd George continued his negotiations with the Irish leaders during the week-end. He hopes to go to Ireland in the near future. It is understood that he will visit Belfast.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BRITISH AVIATION ACCIDENT. MR. TENNANT'S SON SEVERELY INJURED.

LONDON, May 29th.

Henry, the son of Mr. H. J. Tennant (Under-Secretary of State for War), who is in the Flying Corps, was severely injured in a flying accident in Kent yesterday morning. The pilot, Captain Grime-Jones, was killed.

[It will be recalled that on the occasion of Mr. Pemberton-Billing's assertions in the House of Commons that a large number of British aviators had been "murdered" through deficient machines and other causes, Mr. Tennant defied them, and emphasised that his son and also the son of General Sir A. Henderson (Director of Military Aeronautics) were in the Flying Corps.]

KING VISITS NAVAL AND MILITARY CENTRES.

LONDON, May 29th.

H.M. the King is visiting Portsmouth and other Naval and Military centres, returning to London on Wednesday.

DAYLIGHT SAVING IN ITALY.

ROME, May 29th.

A Decree prescribes daylight saving in Italy.

PRESIDENT YUAN SHIH-KAI. SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN POISONED.

LONDON, May 29th.

It is reported that President Yuan Shih-Kai is in a grave condition. It is suspected that he is suffering from poisoning.

COUNT OKUMA RESIGNING.

TOKYO, May 29th.

Count Okuma (Prime Minister) has intimated that he will soon resign. Baron Kato will probably succeed him.

THE NEW DERBY. PROBABLE STARTERS AND JOCKEYS.

LONDON, May 29th.

The probable starters and jockeys in the New Derby are as follows:—Gilbert the Fibert, Wheatley, Kwongou, Templeman, Polyclanor, Lapcaster, Ferrox, C. Childs, or Fox, Sirian, P. Bullock, Figaro, Whalley, Nassovian, Spar, Flaming Fire, Donoghue, Forest Guard, Hunter, Canyon, Rickaby, Fiffnella, J. Childs, Condolitiere, C. Childs, is a doubtful starter.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

NEGOTIATING FOR AMERICAN LOAN.

PEKING, May 29th.

The continuation of protracted negotiations here with American financiers leads to the belief that a loan will be concluded. This improves the Government prospects, and should ease the situation.

"TIMES" CORRESPONDENT MARRIED.

PEKING, May 29th.

Mr. David Fraser, the *Times* correspondent here, was married on Saturday.

PLIGHT OF BRITISH PRISONERS IN BULGARIA.

VIGOROUS REMONSTRANCE FROM UNITED STATES.

Lord Newton has addressed the following communication to Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., who drew the attention of the Foreign Office to the reported deplorable plight and treatment of British prisoners of war in Bulgaria:—

"I regret to say that the statements to which you allude in regard to the treatment received by British prisoners of war in Bulgaria are unfortunately only too well-founded. A letter from the United States representative at Sofia (Mr. Einstein) to the Ambassador in London, of which his Excellency has just sent me a copy, leaves no doubt as to the treatment, and that the conduct of the Bulgarian authorities in this respect has been deplorable, and that the latter have been far from realizing their obligations towards the prisoners of war in their hands. Mr. Einstein is, however, keenly alive to the urgent necessity of bringing about an immediate and material improvement, and has already addressed to the Bulgarian Government a vigorous remonstrance, which will be followed by further representations which he has been requested to make on behalf of His Majesty's Government. You may be well assured that no effort will be spared, either on the part of His Majesty's Government or of the United States Legation at Sofia, to put an end to a state of things which is so distressing to us as it is incredible to the Bulgarians."

BRITISH PRISONERS.

MORE FOOD COMPLAINTS.

In a report on the camp for prisoners of war at Dülmen, Mr. E. L. Dresel, of the American Embassy at Berlin, states that the principal ground of complaint on the part of the British non-commissioned officers and men was that convalescents from wounds and partly disabled men were not accorded special treatment, and slept in the same barracks as the others. On the matter being reported to the German authorities, arrangements to house these cases in a separate barracks, where they could receive special attention, were at once ordered.

At the various camps at Sennelager, where over 1,051 British in the camp, and 300 more were absent on working parties. Representations were made by prisoners as to the inferior quality and insufficiency of the food, the men relying, according to their statements, almost exclusively on supplies from home. Otherwise they had no cause of complaint on account of their treatment. Arrangements are to be made for more frequent bathing. At present there is provision for only one bath a fortnight.

At the various camps at Sennelager, where over 2,700 British soldiers are interned, there were the usual complaints as to food. These did not, however, appear to the inspector to be fully justified, as the soup served at the midday meal was tried and found good. In all the kitchens seen, one or more British are employed, and they are allowed to make suggestions in regard to the fare. The chief dependence in on apprehension was home, and considerable attention was expressed by some prisoners that the supply might cease. That there seems, however, to be no immediate danger of this is shown by the fact that in January 58,000 packages were received by the British, and in February 53,000, out of a total for each month of some 160,000.

There were no complaints as to non-receipt of packages, but some as to irregularity in the receipt of letters, both those addressed to the prisoners at the camps and to their relatives and friends in England. An inspection of the postal bureau and inquiry of the camp officials failed to disclose sufficient grounds for a belief that the trouble was within the camp.

Mr. Dresel mentions that several men at Sennelager are permanently unfit for outside work, and that twenty others are under treatment in hospital for acute diseases. Sir E. Grey has requested that inquiry may be made as to whether these men are not sufficiently incapacitated to warrant their repatriation.

HAIG'S OFFER TO HELP VERDUN.

WHY JOFFRE WAS AGAINST A BRITISH ADVANCE.

A number of French journalists who returned from a visit to the British front in France a month ago are all very enthusiastic over what they have seen and their articles are full of admiration for the marvellous organisation of every department of the now huge British Army. There is another point which they touch upon most sympathetically, says the *Daily Chronicle* special correspondent. Since the beginning of the battle for Verdun many people have asked anxiously: "What are the British doing?" and though the French were given some meagre information about the extension of the British front there has been undoubtedly some surprise among certain classes of the public that the British had not done more to relieve the pressure on Verdun.

M. Serge Basset, in the *Petit Parisien*, replies as follows to all worried by these perplexities:—

"If during the German offensive against Verdun our Allies have not attempted a diversion it is because General Joffre considered that they would be accomplishing a task equally useful in consolidating certain positions, and in perfecting the military instruction of several hundreds of thousands of men."

READY TO STRIKE.

"The British Generalissimo, Sir Douglas Haig, had already spontaneously offered to strike, and he is ready now, as he will be ready on all occasions, to launch his army forward on a word from our own Headquarters Staff."

"It is well to say these things in order to prevent any misunderstanding. Nothing could hurt our Allies more than to insinuate that they are hushbanding their troops and allowing the brunt of the struggle to be borne by us."

"The joke is stupid and unjust that says the British will fight to the last Frenchman. The figures of the British losses in France suffice to show the injustice of such an insinuation."

M. Basset, in his description of the British "Army organisations," relates plausibly that at one of the French ports the British make use of a factory established by the Germans before the war, where the Germans had built platforms ready to receive the heavy cannon with which the Kaiser hoped to bombard the British coast.

The correspondent of the *Matin* writes:—

"The organisation at the British base is tremendous. It is based on perfected principles which arouse our admiration mingled with a slight feeling of jealousy of the British Colonies when we see with what consummate art the Mother Country has succeeded in sending her sons everything necessary for their material and moral sustenance. Looking at it from a distance, one thinks this machine is splendid; but, oh! how slow! But when one is on the spot, face to face with it, it must be admitted how complete and how strong it is."

OPIUM SMUGGLERS.

OUTWITTED BY CALCUTTA OFFICERS.

The *Englishman* of April 28th says:—Opium smugglers in Calcutta were under the impression that during the Easter holidays the usual strict vigilance of the Customs authorities would be in a manner relaxed and, ever ready to seize an opportunity, many attempts were made by them to get quantities of the drug on board the *Kam Sang* and three other vessels lying in port. They were, however, sadly mistaken and all attempts were frustrated by a party of Customs officers, who, it is stated, watched very carefully the long stretch of the river from Outram Ghat to the Kidderpore Docks with the result that in all over a mound of opium was prevented by them from being smuggled out of Calcutta.

It would appear that practically every Chinese—for these people are the worst offenders and incidentally the most ingenious—who approached the river bank was stopped and searched and quantities some large, some small, of the drug were found on ten men. Some of their methods of secreting the opium are enumerated below. Shortly after six o'clock on Good Friday evening one Chinese was stopped near the Eden Gardens and two Customs officers searched his baggage. Nine condensed milk tins were seized, each of which was found to contain a smaller tin full of opium embedded in the condensed milk. The cocoons were found to be stuffed with a seer of opium each. An innocent-looking mirror, about eighteen inches square, was found to have a quantity of opium stuffed behind the glass. Four dozen match-boxes, which were packed up in paper as usually sold in the market, were next examined. In each box two tolas of opium were found concealed under a layer of matches. Another clever device used by this Chinese was a dozen tin dinner plates. The top and the bottom plates were intact, but the centre had been cut out of the remaining ten and was stuffed with about two seers of the drug. Some more opium was found on searching the man's bedding. In all thirteen and a half seers of opium were found in the belongings of this man.

On the same day a kerosene oil tin containing four seers and seventy tolas of opium was confiscated from another Chinese. The lower part of the tin was stuffed with opium, while there was a small tin containing kerosene oil placed on top of the opium so that only oil would be seen if the top of the tin was opened or probed.

Another Chinese at the Kidderpore Docks was challenged and the pigsticker hat which the man was wearing was found to contain a small quantity of opium cleverly concealed at the back. The same day another Chinese was arrested at the same place for having a seer of the drug concealed around his feet and inside his hat. In another instance a Chinese was arrested while driving in a first class phaeton towards No. 8, Kidderpore Docks, for having a seer of opium concealed in his socks.

On Saturday two Chinese were approaching the Chinese steamer *Am Sang*, when their movements aroused the suspicion of a Customs officer. On being searched, opium was found tied around their legs and chests, a haul of four and a half seers being made here. In another case on the same night sixteen tolas of opium were seized in the possession of another Chinese who was approaching the steamer *Loi Sang* lying off Esplanade moorings. The drug was also found concealed in bamboo chairs, a lot of soap and in one instance in a tiffin carrier which, on first sight, appeared to contain only some cooked Chinese food.

WAR WASTE OF SHIPS. TAXATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION.

A Memorandum issued by the Chamber of Shipping indicates that the worst fears of shipowners on the question of the taxation of shipping sales are not to be realized. The question has an important bearing on new construction, which is urgently needed at the present time, since many owners have been proposing to apply the profits realized on sales of shipping to pay for new ships.

The Memorandum now issued points out that in an interview between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and representatives of the Chamber of Shipping and the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association, Mr. McKenna stated that his object was not to levy a tax of 40 per cent. on the difference between the pre-war value and the sale value, but to protect the Exchequer against any loss of excess profits tax consequent on the sale of assets. Such loss might arise either from the fact that the purchaser's datum line (which would be calculated as a statutory percentage on the purchase price) might exceed the vendor's datum line (which had been fixed by the standard of actual pre-war earnings), or by the operation of the section of the Act which provided for allowance for exceptional or obsolescence of assets.

In other words, a steamer if sold might yield less to the Treasury in the form of excess profit taxation than if she had been retained by her original owners. The Chancellor explained that the exact method of preventing the leakage would be found in the Bill, and in the meanwhile the terms of the resolution had to be wide enough to cover any provision that he might find it necessary to insert in order to achieve his object.

The deputation at war came before the Chancellor the extent to which the shipping industry was suffering from war waste, and pointed out that, although on national grounds there was an urgent necessity for the immediate replacement of this wastage, it was only possible to acquire tonnage at war prices out of war earnings.

The Chancellor, it is stated, explained that the extraordinary expenditure resulting from the acquisition of ships at war prices would be dealt with as "exceptional depreciation or obsolescence of assets," and on the basis of an allowance being made out of future war profits to recoup the extraordinary expenditure in so far as it was attributable to war conditions. The intention, he added, was to make all equitable adjustments before the excess profit taxation was closed.

Acting Superintendent
Hongkong, 26th May, 1956

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POST OFFICE NOTICE.

INWARD MAILS.

FROM	PER	DATE
STRAITS	...	...
Europe (London 30th April, via Siberia)	...	...
Europe (London 30th May via Siberia)	...	...
...	...	...

OUTWARD MAILS.

FOR	PER	DATE
Saigon	...	...
Amoy	...	...
Tourane and Quinhon	...	...
Philippine Islands, Australia, Tasmania New Zealand, via Port Darwin, and New Guinea via Thursday	...	...
Amoy and Philippines Islands	...	...
Saigon	...	...
Shanghai and North China	...	...
Shanghai and Tientsin	...	...
Shanghai and North China Newswang and Dairen	...	...
Fort Bayard and Haiphong	...	...
Wuhu	...	...
SHANGHAI, NORTH CHINA, JAPAN via NAGASAKI, HONOLULU, UNITED STATES, CANADA, SOUTH AMERICA and UNITED KINGDOM via SAN FRANCISCO	...	...
Shanghai, North China & Japan, via MOI	...	...
SHANGHAI, NORTH CHINA, JAPAN via NAGASAKI, VICTORIA, B.C. (CANADA), UNITED STATES, SOUTH AMERICA and UNITED KINGDOM via VANCOUVER	...	...
(EUROPE via SIBERIA)	...	...
Shanghai Brit. P.O. Saturday, 3rd June	...	...
Vladivostok	...	...
Shanghai and North China (EUROPE via SIBERIA)	...	...
Shanghai Brit. P.O. Monday, 5th June	...	...
Batavia	...	...
STRAITS, BURMAH, Ceylon, ADELPHI, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEP, EGYPT and EUROPE	...	...
The Parcel Mail will be closed on Thursday, 1st June, at 5 p.m.	...	...
Swatow, Amoy and Fuzhou	...	...
Tinian, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand via Port Darwin and New Guinea via Thursday Island	...	...
Shanghai and North China Philippine Islands	...	...
SHANGHAI to NORTH CHINA (EUROPE via SIBERIA)	...	...
Shanghai Brit. P.O. Saturday, 10th June	...	...

* Republished correspondence only.
† Superimposed correspondence for places other than Philippines Islands and Sandakan.
‡ Superimposed correspondence for places other than Hongkong.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS OUTWARDS.

FOR	ON WEEK-DAYS	ON SUNDAYS & HOL. DAYS.
Tai O	8.30 A.M.	9.00 A.M.
Tai Po	10.00 A.M.	...
Shaung Chow	4.00 P.M.	...
Shatouk, Shatin and Shaungshui	4.30 P.M.	...
Aburdon, Antau Ping Shan, Sai Kung, Santa, Stanley	4.30 P.M.	...
Canton, Wanchow and Samsbai	7.30 A.M.	...
Macao	7.15 A.M.	...
Kangmoon	6.00 P.M.	...
Hanau and Samsai	6.00 P.M.	...
Shamshu	10.00 A.M.	...

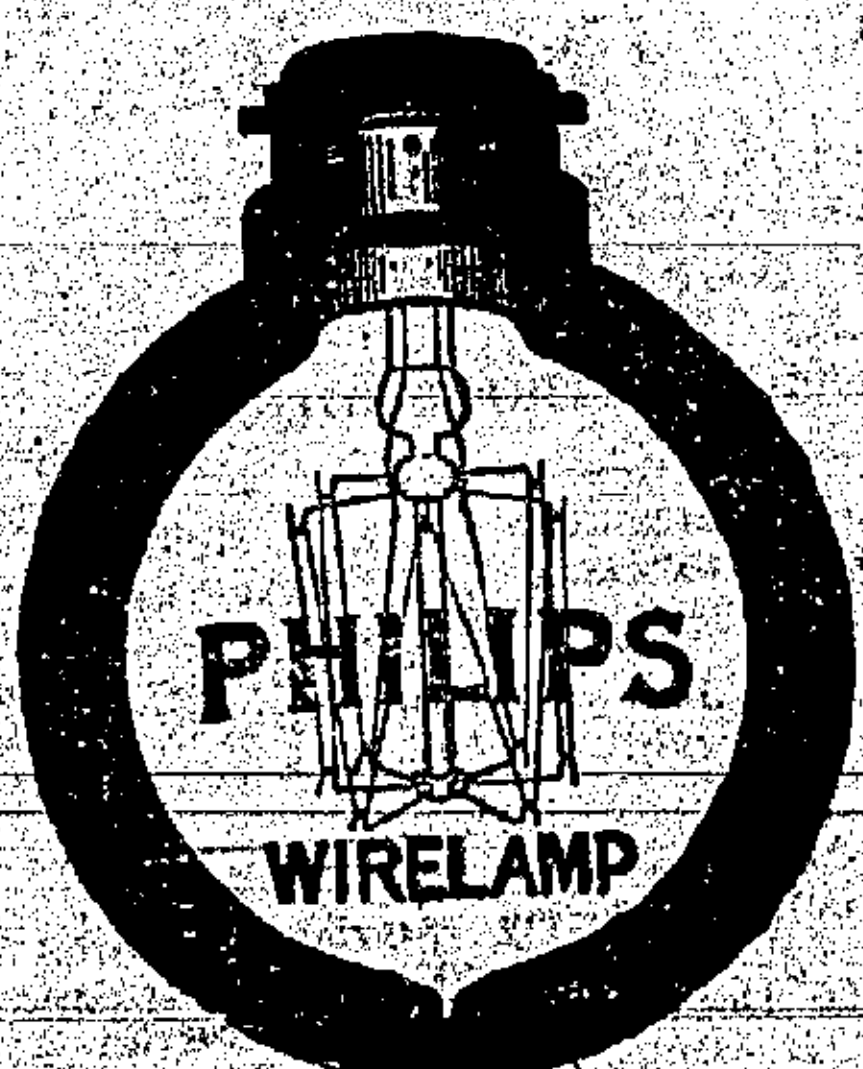
From Sheungwan Western, Branch P.O.

FOR	ON WEEK-DAYS	ON SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS.
Macao	7.30 A.M.	9.30 P.M.
Tai Ping Tong	7.30 A.M.	9.30 P.M.
Shok Ki	7.30 A.M.	9.30 P.M.
Kangmoon	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.
Kauksung	6.00 P.M.	6.00 P.M.

In the case of Mails closing before 9 a.m. Registration closes at 5 o'clock on the previous evening.

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COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

May 29th
London: Telegraphic Transfer 2/2 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 2/2 1/2
Bank Bills, 30 days' sight 2/2 1/2
Bank Bills, 60 days' sight 2/2 1/2
Credit, 30 days' sight 2/2 1/2
Documentary Bills 4 mos. 2/2 1/2
On Paris: Bank Bills, on demand 207 1/2
Credit, 30 days' sight 207 1/2
On New York: Bank Bills, on demand 51 1/2
Credit, 30 days' sight 51 1/2
On Bombay: Telegraphic Transfer 16 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 16 1/2
On Calcutta: Telegraphic Transfer 16 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 16 1/2
On Shanghai: Bank Bills, at sight 70 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight 70 1/2
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